

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
storing data in a memory device;
writing a pointer related to a location of the data to a known location;
indicating the data has a protected status; and
preventing a read of the pointer from the known location by any operating system supported process, permanently.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
returning a fixed value in response to a read request for the pointer.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the known location is a register in a memory controller.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the location of the data in a descriptor list table, wherein the pointer indicates the location of the descriptor list table.
5. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:
a first memory device to store a pointer to a descriptor list table;
a second memory device to store an indicator of a protected status; and

a control circuit to prevent a read of the pointer by any operating system supported process, permanently.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, further comprising:

an output circuit to generate a fixed output when the pointer has a protected status.

7. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the first memory device is a register in a memory controller.

8. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a memory device;

a processor;

a memory controller coupled to the memory device and processor, the memory controller to store a pointer to a descriptor list table and to prevent a read of the pointer by any operating system supported process, permanently, when the pointer is in a protected mode; and

an integrated audio controller coupled to the memory controller to process audio data.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a removable media drive coupled to the memory controller to read encrypted data.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a graphics device to display encrypted data from the removable media drive.

11. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving a request from ~~[[any]]~~ an operating system supported process; ~~permanently, for a location of data, the operating system supported process having a highest level of access to system resources;~~

means for determining a protected status of the data; and

means for returning a predetermined signal if the data has a protected status in response to the request.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for storing an indicator of the protected status.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for returning a location of the data if the data has an unprotected status.

14. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

receiving a request from [[any]] an operating system supported process, ~~permanently~~, for descriptor table base address, the operating system supported process having a highest level of access to system resources;

determining if the descriptor table base address register is set in a protected mode; and

returning a fixed value if the register is in the protected mode in response to the request.

15. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

storing an indicator of the protected mode.

16. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

returning the descriptor table base address if the data is not in the protected mode.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the known location is a register in a DMA controller.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stored data may be a encrypted video data or encrypted audio data.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating system supported process may be a ring 0 program.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the predetermined signal may be a signal indicating that the device is unavailable.